

GRAPEVINE

Cambridge's Community Paper

July - Aug '79 No 11

15p



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STRAWBERRYFAIR: GROSVENORS ESTATE: BOOZE + BOREDOM: CHILE: DIRECTORY OF GROUPS: C.U.: GINGERBREAD: RESIDENTS CAMPAIGN: FREE SCHOOL: AND MUCH MORE.....



If I catch you slacking again you'll be out on your ear...

GRAPEVINE is an alternative paper produced by people living and working in Cambridge. It aims to cover news which the commercial press, because of its social or political bias, distorts or ignores.

There is no editor - everyone being involved in any parts of the production process they wish to be. The price we charge is determined by our costs, none of us gets paid and we hope to break even each issue. In fact, we regularly make a small loss. (We are not aligned with, or funded by any political party or grouping).

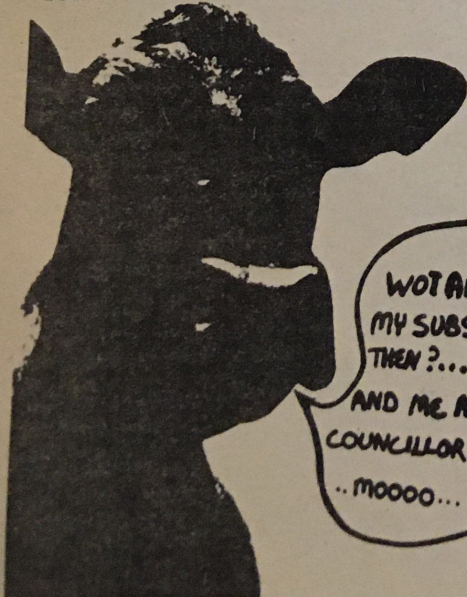
Grapevine depends entirely on support from its readers and we always welcome anyone who wishes to help in any sort of way. We particularly welcome articles from any local group or individual on issues specifically relevant to things going on in Cambridge in which they are involved. We hope readers will find the paper both interesting and useful as a means of finding out more about what is going on in Cambridge. We would like to hear people's reactions to Grapevine whether critical or approving in order to help us improve the contents.

Each issue is planned at a meeting to which everyone is welcome to come and contribute.

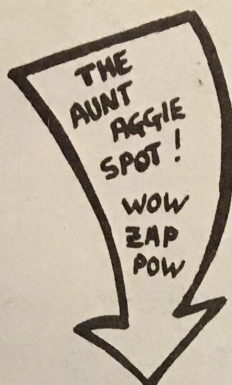
The meeting to discuss this issue and plan the next one will be at 41a Fitzroy St, on Tuesday

31st July at 8. pm.

PS AN APOLOGY :- to everyone who paid for a subscription a few issues ago. We have lost the list of subscribers and probably forgot a few of you so please if you haven't been receiving copies, let us know!



WOT ABOUT MY SUBSCRIPTION THEN?... AND ME A COUNCILLOR TOO!! ..MOOOO...



WOT'S GOIN' ON 'ERE!



AGGIE SEZ:
GRAPEVINE NEEDS YOU!
SO STOP PUSSYFOOTING AROUND
+ LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
DOING, WHAT'S GOING ON IN
CAMBRIDGE THAT CONCERNS YOU
- OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW!!
→ GRAPEVINE
41A FITZROY ST.
TEL: 52137. OK?!



Word has it that the Claimants Union is alive and kickin' in the Bath House - Weds. 2 - 5 p.m. It's a one man operation just now, with Ian handling a steady flow of enquiries.

"What's the Claimants' Union?" cry the people. Basically, it's whatever claimants getting together make it. Previous groups in Cambridge have provided advisory services and have undertaken correspondence with the DHSS and appeals tribunals when asked. A central concern all along has been spreading information on Welfare Rights.

The hope was that it would not fall on a few individuals to provide a service for all other claimants. Visionaries of the movement have spoken of a loose organisation of claimants sharing knowledge and experience of dealings with the DHSS. For instance, if you've carried through an appeal, what you learned would be very useful to someone who doesn't know what to expect.

However, it has tended to fall on a few individuals to provide a service for other claimants. The present group has been whittled down, by employment and premature old age, to one Ian.

Go on, you'd love to give him a hand, even if you just fancy putting up a couple of posters or distributing the odd leaflet now and again. If you want to go a bit deeper there's no mysteries; most of the info is in one little handbook, and the best way to learn is by just doing it.

Interested? Drop by the Bath House on Weds. between 2 and 5, or ring Ian on 69986 or Billy on 55053, after six or at weekends.

You can buy Grapevine at the following shops:

Arjuna, 12 Mill Rd.
Dillons Bookshop, Silver St.
Browne's Bookshop, Mill Rd.
The Bookshop, Magdalene St.
The Post Office, Castle St.
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Anarchist bookstall, CCAT, outside canteen, Thursdays 11 - 2.

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Beedell's, Mill Rd. Bridge
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Thanks to all these shops for stocking the magazine.

An answer to housing misery?

The Empty Property Action Group (EPAG) are questioning the claim recently made in a report by senior officials of Cambridge City Council that only 26 Council owned residential properties in the city are unused.

Councillors sympathetic to EPAG had put a motion to the council, urging it to use short-life council-owned property for temporary accommodation. EPAG's recently published survey of empty property in Cambridge identifies 81 City Council owned properties which were empty in March 1979.

The Council Officials' Report says that "the short term use of these properties, for housing purposes" would require "the use of part of the HIP (Housing Improvement) Allocation". This need not be so. Similarly it is seriously misleading for Coun. Gough-Goodman to claim at a recent meeting of the Central Development Action Panel (at which the council report was presented) that to make these properties fit for short term accommodation "would cost the ratepayers tens of thousands of pounds".

EPAG, which has been receiving advice from the Housing Emergency Office (a subgroup of shelter) will soon be in a position to draw on Central Government funds to improve some of these empty properties (under a licensing agreement with the council) to a standard fit for temporary accommodation. This will not cost the ratepayer a penny, and it will in fact provide the Council with an income from licence fees and rates.

EPAG is not the only organisation which could secure government funds for such improvements - there are others already in a position to do so. Indeed, the Council report states that "Government Circular 76/77 suggests that local authorities should grant licences for short term use of properties to registered housing associations". Yet the Council appears to have taken no initiative to do this.

Indeed, all the Council officials say is that "EPAG has made an application to the Housing Corporation for registration as a housing association, but to date has not been accepted". This is untrue, and the fact that Council officers did not check this information, as well as the absence of any attempt on their part to seek out other housing associations for this purpose, shows how reluctant they are to adopt the strategy recommended in the Government circular.

EPAG does not intend to apply to the Housing Corporation for registration. Instead, the group is in the process of applying for registration with the registrar of Provident and Friendly societies under the 1965 Act governing those bodies. Once registered in this way, EPAG will be in a position to receive from the housing corporation, via a Housing Association registered under the 1975 Housing Act, Mini Housing Aid Grants which would be adequate to enable us to improve some Council owned empty properties for short term accommodation.

The Council Officials claim that "All of the (unused Council owned properties are unfit, and the cost of improving them would be substantial". EPAG point out that some of these properties were recently occupied in substantially the same condition that they are in now. Furthermore, many of the houses are in the dreadful state they are in now because of the Council's stupid and destructive policy of wrecking them as soon as they were vacated. And EPAG has learned from experience to distrust large estimates for repair that come from the council. In 1977, then councillor Powley told an EPAG meeting that 56 Histon Rd. would cost over £5000 to repair. The group managed to restore it for less than £500 and there are now four people in the house.

With a little bit of common sense and sympathy from the Council, EPAG would be able to restore more houses for short-life accommodation, and achieve the primary aim of the group: to get people housed.

The Cambridge Empty Property Action Group (EPAG) have just published a new empty property survey, compiled this spring and entitled Another Empty Home.

The survey lists every property in Cambridge which was empty at the time the investigation was conducted. It includes brief details of the condition the building is in, the owners where they are known, and the length of time the property has been empty.

The survey shows that there are now well over 400 unused buildings in Cambridge, many having been empty for many years. This figure has not declined since the first survey was undertaken 2 years ago.

The major offenders are shown to be first and foremost the City Council, closely followed by various colleges of the University. There are a good few owned by the Co-op and Cambs. County Council.

The largest concentration of empty buildings is in the Kite, which has over 150, both in the area to be redeveloped and in the area being rehabilitated. The next worst area is St. Matthews, where many houses have lain empty for years.

The Survey and the report which accompanies it concede that sometimes there are understandable reasons why a house should remain empty for a period of time - between occupants, for example. But there is no excuse for an owner to do nothing with a property for a matter of years.

Since its formation, EPAG has been approaching property owners in an attempt to find out why buildings are being misused. The group is willing to try to bring some buildings back into use itself. EPAG is in the process of registering as a friendly society. This will enable the group to administer grants available from the Housing Corporation (part of the Department of the Environment) to renovate houses on a short term basis. At present the group administers one house rented for a nominal sum from the city council.

The Survey costs 25p, and is available from the SCA office at 3 Round Church, or from Arjuna, at 12 Mill Road.

I.C.

BOOZE AND BOREDOM

COUNCIL TANKS UP

Readers of Grapevine will be pleased to hear that Cambridge City Council decided to grant the freedom of the City to the Royal Anglian Regiment. This was 'in acknowledgement of the warm regard of the City of Cambridge for the Royal Anglian Regiment and to mark the City's desire for a close and friendly association with the Regiment'.

The Council decided to spend £500 on the presentation of the freedom. The money was to be spent on "a scroll, and casket and hospitality". Unfortunately, most of the Regiment were on duty overseas and the presentation had "to be to the Colonel of the regiment, unaccompanied by the usual ceremony and parade".

So who was there to enjoy their hospitality? This, we are told, was consumed entirely by "the Colonel, a few other representatives of the regiment and members of the Council".

Of course, we hope they all had a good time. But, we may wonder, do councillors make a habit of this sort of thing? Well, if you asked them, they would have to admit that they don't do too badly. They have managed to arrange a regular flow of distinguished persons for whom they feel enough "warm regard" and "desire for close and friendly association" to share hospitality with - on the house, so to speak. Furthermore, they seem confident that, in future years, the supply will not run dry. To cope with this, and to ensure the continuation of such essential Council business, £3,000 has been budgeted for hospitality for each of the next five financial years.



Hardened consumers of hospitality on the Council (who are no doubt full of "warm regard", etc) may have been surprised to notice that one councillor voted against the latest bout. The dissent was motivated, presumably, by a feeling that this was not the most beneficial way of spending rate-payers' money. "These left-wingers", one can imagine it being muttered, "don't they want us to have any fun".

NEWS AND
BLUES
FOR LABOUR

- CHANGING
TUNES
FROM THE
COUNCIL
CHAMBER?

POST-
ELECTION
EXCLUSIVE

SENSATION

go to GMC, urging that the voting record of Councillors in establishing Group policy, where this differs from City Labour Party policy, should be taken into account when they apply to be candidates for re-election to the Council. (Although the Labour Party does not have the power to dictate policy to Labour Councillors (except in the broad terms laid down in the manifesto) it does have the power of selecting candidates for election to the Council.)

This resolution, together with another urging disciplinary action against councillors breaking Group policy, was supported, at a later GMC meeting by two short serving councillors and opposed by a number of long serving councillors on the grounds that, with their many years of experience on the Council, they knew best and that therefore, it was not fair to tie them down on "the narrow issue of adhering to party policy".

(They called this attitude "political courage", though it is also known as "going your own way" or, more simply, as "not giving a *!#!") One short server replied by saying he thought that some councillors were getting "above the people" - at which the leader of the Labour Group left the room. It was also emphasized that party workers felt let down, after election campaigning, when councillors voted in ways which appeared to be out of line with party policy. Both resolutions were carried with substantial majorities, the remaining long serving councillors voting against.

RATS..

There followed, on May 17th, a stormy Council meeting at which Counc. Colin Rosenstiel, a liberal, embarrassed the Labour group by proposing, as amendments to the committee membership being recommended, that there should be 3 Labour members on CDAP and extra Labour or Liberal members of various other committees. This was embarrassing because these amendments - which would have increased Labour membership of committees and resulted in Lab-Lib control for some of them -- would have been passed if the Labour Group had all voted for them. Yet the Labour Group had decided to abstain from voting on any amendments to the recommended committee membership which they had already agreed upon.

Will They or Won't They ?

Not long after the local elections which lost the Conservatives over all control of the City Council, doubts have been raised in the minds of many of the electorate, including some members of the Labour Party, about the determination of the Labour Group on the Council to carry out their electoral pledge to do all they legally can to oppose the comprehensive Kite redevelopment scheme.

Negotiations took place immediately after the election to determine the membership of the Council committees and sub-committees which was to be recommended to full Council on May 17th.

The Labour Group were subject to severe criticism from within the City Labour Party when it emerged that, amongst other things, they had not pushed for chairmanships on any committees and had allowed the Tories clear majorities on all the important committees (with the exception of Environment), including Central Developments Action Panel - which, in the past, has taken many of the crucial decisions on the Kite -- on which they agreed to accept only 2 seats.

There is no doubt that the Labour Group need not have accepted such a weak position - they could have achieved majorities on many of the important committees for a combined Labour, Liberal and Independent opposition to Tory support for the comprehensive Kite redevelopment.

Because of this, a resolution, insisting that the Labour Group should push for 3 seats on CDAP was put to the General Management Committee of the City Labour Party on May 14th. The resolution was passed by 37 votes for and 8 against. At a meeting following this, the Labour Group, in defiance of this overwhelming mandate from the Labour Party, decided to reaffirm their previous decision to only go for 2 seats on CDAP. As a consequence, Petersfield Ward Labour Party passed a resolution, to

In speaking in support of his amendments Council. Rosenstiel reminded the Labour Group that many of them owed their election to, and the Tories had lost control because of, the issue of the Kite. He claimed that, in not going for more seats on committees, they were letting down the electorate over their pledges on the Kite. "You are ratting on your commitment that you made to the electorate", he told the Labour Group. He described the agreed composition of committees as "an agreement between Labour and the Tories to do down the electorate" and claimed that "the people who voted Labour might as well have voted Tory"

UPROAR

The newly elected Mayor, and chairman of the Council, had difficulty controlling the uproar which followed. Condemnation and some abuse were directed at Council. Rosenstiel from both both Labour and Tory councillors one after another until a Labour councillor rounded off the exchange by saying that "all Council Rosenstiel can think of is his Kite". Doris Howes, leader of the Labour Group, defended the Groups position by saying that they had already agreed on the committee membership to push for and that they did not want to be forced into a position where they might be forced to make "deals" with the Liberals because they held the balance of power. Throughout the debate Council. Rosenstiel's amendments were portrayed as bids for more power for the Liberals - despite the fact that, in the main, it was an increased Labour membership of committees that he was proposing. The logic of their position seems to be that, in order to prevent the Liberals gaining any more power on the Council, the Labour Group are prepared to go to the lengths of allowing the Tories to take effective control. Council. Howes finally argued that CDAP was not as important as Council. Rosenstiel had made out and that it would be the Environment committee that would be taking the important initial decisions (planning) over the Kite. Against this Council. Rosenstiel said that there had been more trouble from CDAP than from any other committee.

When the vote was taken on the first amendment, proposing 3 Labour members on CDAP, to the astonishment of onlookers, 5 Labour councillors broke group policy, normally considered as binding, by voting with the Tories against the proposal that a member of their own party should replace a Tory on this committee. On seeing this, 4 Labour councillors of a different persuasion also decided to break group policy by voting with

the Liberals on the next amendment proposing an extra Labour member on another committee. To back this up, one Labour councillor emphasised his differences with some other members of his Group by speaking out strongly in favour of Council. Rosenstiel's amendment and declaring his respect for him. On further amendments the Labour Group continued to be divided in their voting.

Suspensions that the political will of some Labour Councillors is flagging over the Kite were increased after a recent meeting of the Environment Committee on which Labour, together with the Liberals, have a majority. Council. Peter Wright, deputy leader of the Labour Group put to the committee a motion that the present Grosvenor Estates planning application should be considered by full Council rather than by the Tory controlled Development Control Panel - which would be the routine procedure. The motion was defeated because two Labour Councillors abstained. Yet this was an important motion since there are grounds for rejecting the present plan

So much for the importance, attached by Council. Howes to the fact that this was the one important committee which they had not allowed the Tories to control. With Labour Councillors performing in this way, one may wonder whether it makes any difference if committees

are Tory controlled or not. Yet, at the next GMC meeting Council. Howes said that it was Labour Group policy to bring the planning application to full Council for consideration. One Councillor said that, in view of the recent performance on the Environment Committee, he wondered how this was going to be engineered, and he confronted the abstainers about this - one of whom replied by saying that she knew more about it than he did and had abstained for reasons which were "too technical to go into" then. Well, one would have thought that she could at least make these reasons known to other Labour Councillors in an attempt to retain at least their confidence - even if, for whatever reason, she did not want to make them public.

Understandably, some of the Labour Group may, as well as being afraid of personal liability, be afraid of bungling the future of the Kite even if they could end the present agreement with Grosvenor in a legally satisfactory way

But the biggest bungle that they could possibly make, as well as creating a loss of confidence in themselves, is to fail to do all they can to oppose the present scheme.

Amidst all the confusion and apparent wavering of the Labour group, one thing that stands out clearly is that the determination of KCA to Oppose the present Grosvenor scheme, with or without the cooperation of the Council, is not weakening in the slightest

As a result of a resolution from Market Ward Labour Party, the City Labour Party set up a sub committee which received ideas from local and national organisations who have an interest in the Kite. The sub Committee consisting of party officers, members and councillors, submitted a policy statement to GMC.

The statement reaffirms opposition to the redevelopment of the Kite by a single commercial developer, asks councillors to investigate the extent to which they are restricted by personal liability under the existing contract, and advises Labour councillors to withhold detailed planning permission and any other necessary consent for the scheme until two modifications have been made in details in the present plan which are not in keeping with the outline planning permission granted by the last Council. They are: an open centre to the development instead of a closed Mall, probably to be locked at night, as presently planned; modification of the new traffic proposals to remove the extra overloading which they would cause on existing roads. (It is hoped by those totally opposed to the present scheme that these modifications will appear reasonable enough for councillors to be prepared to insist on them, while being intolerable enough to Grosvenor Estates to make them want to pull out of the present deal completely - which would solve everything.

It is interesting to note however, that, given that the Council has lost compulsory purchase powers, no mention has been made of the house, owned by KCA, which is right in the middle of the proposed development area. What are they going to do about that? Build round it? If Grosvenor Estates withdraw, the statement goes on to say, a local plan should be drawn up which includes, amongst other things a substantial area for housing development, retention of the existing buildings and street plan, the encouragement of small businesses in purpose built workshops. The statement was amended and accepted by GMC and is therefore now Labour Party policy. But how much and how many of the Labour Group will heed its recommendations will remain to be seen, though the fact that a number of councillors were actively involved in producing it leaves some room for optimism.

STOP PRESS: Recent developments suggest that the Labour Group are now pulling together over the Kite issue.

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FAIR

**GRAPEVINE ASKED MEMBERS OF THE
CAMBRIDGE MAYDAY GROUP FOR
THEIR PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE FAIR.....**

MARK....

This year's Strawberry Fair, the sixth went off as well as usual. Or so it seemed to the thousands who flocked to it. "Magic" was the reply of one 12 year old when I asked him what he thought of it; the landlord of the Fort St George was similarly pleased with what he thought by far the best organised of the Midsummer Fairs and by far the best behaved crowd. Yet for me and for many others I have spoken to this year's fair was marred by a strange mood, an undertone of violence. In piecing all the different stories together I've come across a handful of ugly incidents; a girl is sent crashing off an inflatable and back into hospital from whence she had only just come out; greasers outside the beer tent looking mean as hell and spoiling for a fight and nearly getting into one at Phil's Afghani Tea Stall - "ere that smoke's killing my baby, what you gonna do about it"; the fire-eater having to change his act so not to be heaved out by a bunch of skin heads; over by the music stage a good friend of mine is hit on the head by a flying bottle - luckily no harm done; and I (of all people) get called upon by one of the stagecrew to "talk to" some extremely pissed Teds demanding Rock and Roll or Else and again spoiling for a bit of action - luckily the situation defuses before I get thrown in. By the end of the evening we were just thankful that the Corn Exchange bouncers were on hand to keep the punks from demolishing the stage. One of the stagecrew told me afterwards that if we were to do this again we would have to have back stage security. Back Stage Security! When I played in a band at Strawberry Fair four years ago, the stage was a large rug on the ground.

The picture I paint must seem a bit black. Probably a bit too black. I've spoken with lots of other people who missed the whole violent vibe completely and just thought that Strawberry Fair, as usual, delivered the goods. Somewhere in here I get lost. I've been at least peripherally involved in all the Strawberry Fairs and increasingly centrally involved in the last three. As every body knows (or at least no one doubts)

putting on a free fair is an awful lot of work. But always for me, it's been matched in the satisfaction of seeing the enjoyment it creates for so many people and the feeling that a day of celebration for the radical community in Cambridge is not entirely ephemeral - it serves a function of solidarity between all the alternative groups. And the fact that so much of it is free makes the fair something a bit special to most people, particularly when contrasted with the standard fair of entertainment served up in Cambridge by unscrupulous entrepreneurs or a tepid council.

As I see it now, Strawberry Fair is being slowly suffocated by its own success. There is still a tremendous amount of goodwill and energy that can go into it but as its reputation, which is already nationwide, grows, more and more of that energy is going to have to go into largely negative organisational hassles - like back-stage security, chemical toilets, cleaning up, hassling for money, worrying about rip-offs. The original light-heartedness and spontaneity which marked the early days has all but gone. I must admit that for me the actual fair was one big hassle, an ugly lump in my stomach that didn't die down until after midnight when, standing around the deserted stage area with a few friends sharing a smoke, I was able to look around at all the beautiful chaos, the bottles, tin cans, paper plates, tents and straw everywhere, and at last feel good about it down to my boots.

Where to now? An extraordinary thing to be involved with as it must be one of the few radical, voluntary causes that are not ongoing. No one every knows whether anyone will get it together next year. I'm left with a slightly bewildered feeling of not knowing whether Cambridge needs or wants another Strawberry Fair. How would all the campaigning groups who had stalls at the fair feel about actually helping a bit with the organisation next year - say each one putting one person into the organising collective. Or is the growing mood of unruliness - The Teds v The Greasers v ThePunks v The Skinheads PLUS beer tent PLUS rock music - going to put pay to this much loved and indeed unique event?

Guil

I didn't get such a strong feeling of violence at the Fair. I felt that it went pretty well on the whole and that what bad feelings there were didn't stop a lot of people from enjoying themselves - which was its aim.

There were the usual mistakes, unexpected difficulties and minor disasters. Arrangements to get a jazz band for the procession fell through at the last minute and we didn't get the usual traction engine. Though in other respects the procession was better than last year's - a new improved dragon and more people including an imaginatively attired contingent from the St. Paul's Play Centre. The straw bales which we had borrowed were completely pulled apart by children - which we should have predicted and which meant that we had to pay for them as well as rake up the straw the next day. Though it was suggested to us (and we agreed) that this was well worth it because of the entertainment that it provided. (In fact the owner of the bales had predicted this and didn't charge us very much).

However, I did feel that the Fair lacked something compared to last year. This may have been partly due to the different organisation of drama - which was my area. This year we decided to have the drama groups perform out in the open - which they are quite happy to do, and which, I think, is more inkeeping with the spirit of a fair - instead of inside a dome which cost us £200 to hire last year and kept out as many people as it allowed in, I thought. As it was, we were lucky that it didn't rain but I misjudged the need to carefully plan an alternative setting - simply knocking up a couple of backdrops on the morning of the fair: one of which was unsuitable and the other was taken over for other things.

So the drama groups performed wherever they thought best - but, unfortunately, didn't get very big audiences simply because people didn't know where they were performing. The three professional clown/theatre/puppet groups did five shows between them, which I thought were really good, and a lot of general clowning around during the Fair and on the procession - including a large bright pink policeman directing the procession through the streets, which completely took the wind out of the sails of the real, blue, policemen and women whose whose job that was supposed to be. Also, amplified music hampered the drama more than last year because we had to position the stage differently. The puppet group waited a long time for a break in the music before

performing. This led to the late appearance of part of their show which was also one of the more spectacular events of the Fair - a giant dragon which roamed around gobbling up children.

I thought that what these groups did was well worth the money that we paid for them. But I also felt that this money was partly wasted since I got the impression that a lot of people left the fair thinking that there had hardly been any drama at all.

There was a complaint that some bands "weren't allowed to play" at the Fair. Well, there are always lots more bands asking to play than there is time for. For example, this year about 30 rock bands asked to play but there was only time for six. This is because we start the rock music late in the day, after the folk music, in order to keep a balance between it and the rest of the fair which we want to provide entertainment for a wide range of people, including children. If we had put on all the bands that had wanted to play, it would not merely have meant turning the Fair into an all-day rock concert. It would have meant turning it into a two-day rock concert. We would suggest that rock bands who are really keen to play free on the Common should get together and organise their own rock concert - which we would give our backing to, for what it's worth. This is not to underestimate the difficulties that there might be in doing this. But it would be worth trying.

We appreciate very much the fact that bands and other local groups offer to perform free -- this is largely what makes the Fair what it is - and we do not like having to turn down any of these offers. As far as I know, in no activity apart from music requiring amplification, have we had to turn down offers to perform - and I can't see that we would, unless it was something very out of keeping with the rest of the Fair. We only have two or three drama groups performing each year - and we would welcome more.

The Council has been pretty good to us so far. Their depot lent us odd things like fencing and rakes. The Amenities and Recreation Department has allowed us free use of the Common each year so far - though this has to be renegotiated each year. This year it seemed particularly touch and go and we had to spend a bit of time persuading them that we should not be charged a hiring fee as a commercial fair would have been.

On the other hand, the Council takes a hard line if they get even a few complaints. We took a risk over noise this year. Normally we point the stage and speakers towards Jesus Green to avoid annoying local

residents. This year, because the Royal Ballet and a Civic Reception were being held on Jesus Green, we pointed the stage in the other direction, taking a slightly greater risk of annoying local residents. We had a strong warning beforehand that annoying either party would would endanger the future of the Fair.

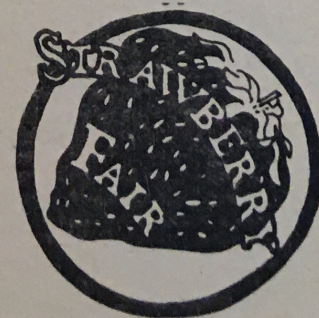
As it is, Council officers judge the Fair by what they hear about it - which usually consists of a few letters of complaint from people who were not at the Fair. For example, because of about three letters of complaint last year, they insisted that we provide portable toilets this year, at great expense.

With our limited time and resources, we could never put on a complaint-proof fair. But it would be nice if some of people who went to the Fair, and enjoyed it, wrote to the Council (Amenities and Recreation Department) to say that they thought it was a good one which the Council should continue to support, etc.

We would also be pleased to hear what you thought/think of the Fair and any ideas for improving it. Write to us (Cambridge Mayday Group) care of 12 Mill Road or Grapevine - who would also welcome a letter/article giving your view of the Fair (including contributions to the children's page).

It seemed ^{hard} work getting the Fair going this year compared to last year. There were fewer people in the Group, a higher proportion of whom had not had the experience of being involved in organising the Fair in previous years. Just one or two more people helping to share the responsibility would have made it much lighter work.

This year's Fair was the sixth. Whether the seventh happens will depend initially on whether enough people are interested in organising it. The composition of the Mayday Group changes quite a bit from year to year as some people drop out and others come in. We do not know yet how many people who were involved this year will want to be next year. If you are interested in sharing responsibility for organising next year's Fair, get in touch. We generally start getting down to business sometime after Christmas.



GROSVENOR'S

At last we have had a chance of seeing what the proposed development in the Fitzroy/Burleigh Street area may look like. Grosvenor House in conjunction with the city council, layed on an exhibition in the Guildhall for two weeks in which the scheme was portrayed by the use of maps, photographs, words and a model. Apparently several hundred people a day visited the exhibition and filled in a questionnaire produced by Grosvenor as a means of judging public reaction to the proposals. It remains to be seen what the results of this questionnaire will be, but it is rather unfortunate that it was prepared by the developers and will be counted and analysed by them also, hardly a guarantee of impartiality.

What of the plans themselves? In short they surpass the worst fears of everyone who has been opposed to a 'comprehensive' redevelopment. The main features being:

1. An enormous enclosed shopping precinct containing 40 shop units and two very large areas to house a supermarket and a departmental store. This in total will be several times the size of the present Lion Yard complex

2. A gigantic multi-storey car-park on the site of what is now Grafton House and directly adjacent to houses on Maid's Causeway and James Street.

3. A new bus interchange with access from East Road.

4. No residential accommodation at all, with the possible exception of a handful of maisonettes and even these might go to provide room for a cinema.

5. A new pub to replace the "Ancient Druids" and The Old English Gentleman" which are to be pulled down.

6. New Square to be returned to grass.

The proposals, which have already been overwhelmingly criticised by the Kite Coordinating Council, the Civic Society the Liberal and Labour parties and very many local residents are unacceptable for a number of reasons.

The primary objection is that this monolithic block, obliterating interesting buildings and even the pattern of streets in the area is totally out of harmony with the present character of the area. This is one of Victorian architecture combining houses and small shops.

Secondly, there is NO provision for building houses, despite the fact that dozens and dozens will have been destroyed to

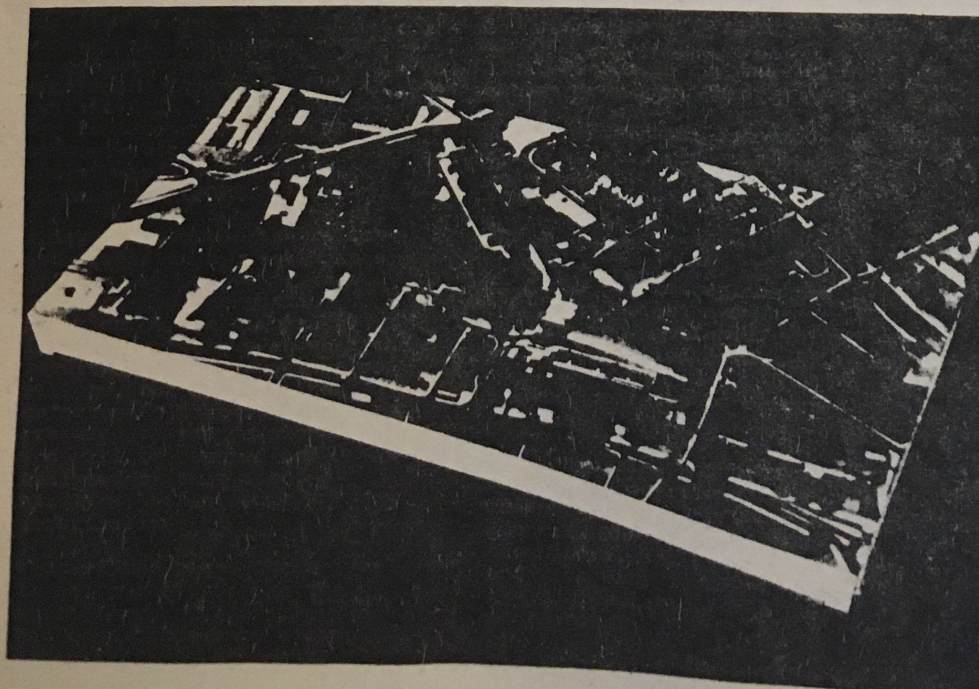
make way for this scheme. It needs little imagination to envisage the atmosphere of the precinct at night with no-one living in the immediate vicinity. A lifeless, hostile and silent mausoleum which will attract only graffiti and violence.

Thirdly, there will be an enormous increase in the amount of traffic attracted to the area both by the shops themselves and by the car-parks and bus interchange. This will lead to increased congestion in the whole area surrounding the Kite and bring traffic into the centre of town while the whole policy of the council's should, and has been, to keep it out.

This feature is one that is particularly worrying KCC who have commissioned a professional firm of transport engineers to conduct a traffic survey, the findings of which are due out in August.

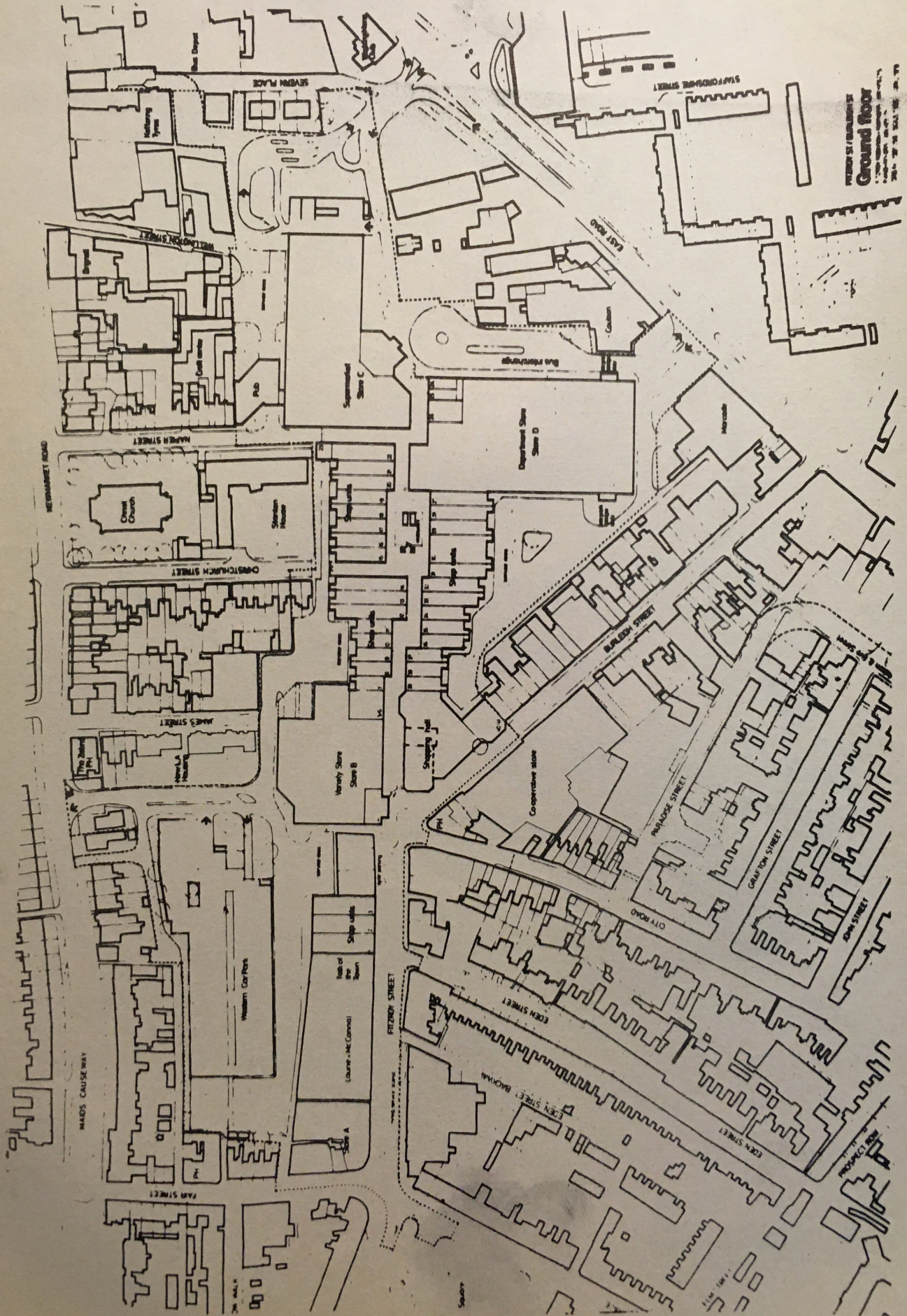
Fourthly, because of the high rents which will have to be charged, the only shops which will be able to afford them will be branches of national chain stores, such as abound in Lion Yard. There are quite enough of these characterless and impersonal shops around already without forcing established local ones to close down by building a haven for more.

All in all the publication of the plans confirms everyone's worst fears and the most worrying fact of all is that the city council has already signed the contract with Grosvenor Commercial Developments Ltd. If the council pulls out or fails to meet the various deadlines for purchasing the necessary properties they will pick up an enormous bill for buying back all the properties bought by Grosvenor. It is to be hoped that either the opposition parties, who together have a majority of votes on the city council, can force Grosvenor to make very radical alterations to their scheme or that Grosvenor themselves will back out faced with the obvious unpopularity of what they are doing.



ESTATE

Page 9



Page 10 CHILE

THE CASE AGAINST TRADING WITH A FASCIST REGIME

How is it possible to be responsible about a country which is ten thousand miles away?

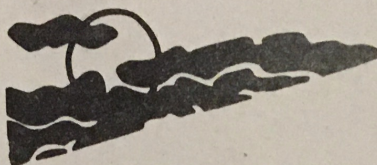
The United Kingdom is a nation which lives strongly based on international trade. Therefore our responsibility is to look after our long term possibilities to maintain this trade.

When we trade with a country we are trading with the country as a whole. All the people are directly or indirectly involved in these transactions. Then the whole business has to be satisfactory to the nation as a whole. If we do not fulfill this condition, sooner or later we will get into trouble with this nation. We are living in a time when the common people are awakening. The machine-gun is not enough to get and maintain political power in a nation. And it doesn't matter how strong the power structure apparently is. We have learned these lessons from the history of the British Empire during this century and yesterday from Iran and today from Nicaragua.



The painful lessons given to us by short-sightedness in international trade force us to be careful in the choice of our partners. Easy profit almost always means trouble in the long term. Obviously, the partner has to realise how much he has lost when he makes the final accounts. Then to initiate new commercial links and trade would be very difficult.

Nowadays, we are doing business with Chile. Last year, we bought around £50,000,000 in goods, mainly copper and the rest in groceries and shoes. During 1979



this trade will be maintained or increased. With whom are we doing business? With a fascist dictatorship supported by a small group of business men, brutally imposed 6 years ago. They smashed a democratically elected government, killed no less than 30,000 people, expelled from the country no less than one tenth of the population, put in prison no less than 200,000 people, expelled from the University the best qualified professors, destroyed the national industrial development and smashed the agricultural output. Why? Because they are trying to put back history, making a new colonial country, producing only raw materials.



But what was the answer from the Chilean people? After a period of retreat under these ferocious repressive conditions, they began to fight. Two years ago they went on an incredible hunger strike in Santiago. This was the turning point because after that, several massive demonstrations were set up against the regime. The main point of these demonstrations is their increasing strength and the width of the social involvement of them. Nowadays, no less than 90% of the population are against the Government. The last demonstration was one hundred thousand people rioting in Santiago streets celebrating May Day. As a conclusion, we can say that the people of Chile will win in their struggle against the fascist dictatorship.

And what kind of explanation about our trade will we be able to give to them then? If some-

body thinks that we can deceive them, he has to realise that in 1973, Chile was a country with the same percentage of illiteracy as the U.K. - 10%. They were sending to the University 30% of each generation. 98% of school age children were attending school. Thousands of the exiled are studying in European Universities. Many of them are teaching in Universities like Harvard, Cambridge, Imperial College of London. The inheritor of the Albert Einstein post in Princeton is a Chilean, Claudio Teitelboim. The political awareness of the Chilean people is well known. As a conclusion we can say that they lost their native head-feather a long time ago! They are no longer primitives.

The responsibility for Chile is a matter for the Chilean people but OUR responsibility is to the UK and we have to be very careful not to damage future possibilities of trade because of a short-sighted policy.

That is why we now have to cut commercial links with the Chilean fascist government. That is our business and the business of our children.

~~NO ARMS~~
~~NO TRADE~~
~~FOR~~
~~THE~~
~~JUNTA~~

The Chile Committee for Human Rights gave out a leaflet to people attending the Annual church service of Lloyds Bank, at St. Michael's church in London on May 8th this year. Part of the leaflet read as follows:

"Since early 1977 Lloyds Bank International, a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank, have been involved in making loans to the Chilean military Junta, which have amounted to well over 200 million dollars (US).

Such international loans are a vital element in helping the Junta to remain in power. The Junta has stated that in bringing about its economic policies over one third of total planned investment in the 1974-1980 development plan will have to come from foreign sources.

In the 5½ years since it seized power this military dictatorship, which Lloyds is financially supporting, has implemented vicious tactics, repeatedly condemned by the United Nations, which have resulted in:

- over 30,000 dead
- 2,500 disappeared
- 1000's tortured and imprisoned
- Press censorship
- one million people fleeing from Chile
- 80% child malnutrition in shanty towns
- 12½% unemployment, 75% in certain areas
- severe repression of trade union rights

Lloyds bears direct responsibility for the oppression in Chile."

The CCHR received the following letter from the manager of the City Trust Branch of Lloyds:

"Dear Sir,

I am most grateful for the illiterate pamphlet handed to me as I entered St. Michael's Church yesterday evening.

I was previously unaware of the extent of this Bank's involvement in Chile, and was delighted to have this information. As a committed Christian, I wholeheartedly approve of this support for the present anti Marxist Government.

Yours faithfully,

E.M. Smith
Manager"

CCHR comment:

"We wonder if all Christians agree in the support of an anti Marxist Government which has forced one tenth of Chile's population into exile, murdered over 30,000 of its citizens and refused to declare the position of 2,500 disappeared prisoners.

Please ask all Christians you know who do not agree with Mr. Smith to write to the Chairman of Lloyds Bank, Sir Jeremy Morse, at 71 Lombard St, London EC1P 3BS, referring to Mr. Smith's Letter. A phone call to Mr. Smith himself might be interesting (01-623-1288 x2722)."

Lloyds Bank Limited

TRUST DIVISION
Wills & Trusts, Investment, Estate Planning, Tax, Insurance
CITY TRUST BRANCH
39 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, EC2R 8AL
Telegraphic Address: Lloydsbank EC2 Telephone: 01-623-1288

2722

ALL BUSINESS TO BE REFERRED TO
THE MANAGER
CITY TRUST BRANCH

The Organiser,
Chile Committee for Human Rights
1, Cambridge Terrace,
London, N.W.1.

Your reference:

Our reference: EMS/BB

9th. May, 1979.

Dear Sir,

I am most grateful for the illiterate pamphlet handed to me as I entered St. Michael's Church yesterday evening.

I was previously unaware of the extent of this Bank's involvement in Chile and was delighted to have this information. As a committed Christian, I wholeheartedly approve of this support for the present anti Marxist Government.

Yours faithfully,

E.M. Smith
Manager.

New threat to St. Matthews

- NEW CAMPAIGN

With the backing of local Labour Councillors, a new campaign is being planned in St. Matthews, a residential area of narrow streets between East Road and Mill Road.

A recent sustained protest in the area stopped a plan to build nine new factories in Ainsworth St. The factories would have meant an intolerable number of large lorries travelling through the area.

The latest threat comes from D. and H., engineering contractors in Hooper St. D. and H. are planning to replace their present 12 ton trucks with 30 tonne monsters. Residents are already harassed by heavy lorries thundering through their tiny streets to the few industrial sites badly situated on the outskirts of the area.

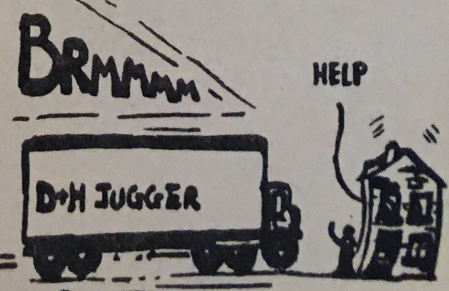
D. and H. say they need bigger trucks to stay in business. But they also want to move to a site near the Northern By-Pass - an ideal site, for which they have already bought the land.

Officers in the Planning Dept. at Shire Hall, who for a long time have been telling residents that they will try and encourage D. and H. to move, are now actually hindering such a move - just when it is most needed. They are recommending to South Cambs. District Council that they refuse D. and H. planning permission for their new site.

Can you ever win? Well, the residents in St. Matthews have done pretty well so far. . . .

Stop Press

The planning application was refused. But the campaign, which produced a pile of letters and a petition of 345 signatures to the council, had the effect of making council officers take active steps to seek out an alternative site for D. and H.



Neighbourhood Groups

Neighbourhood groups are a way in which people in a community can work together for each other. They increase contact between the people of one local area. They enable people to support each other in practical ways, such as babysitting and emergency help; and they break down social isolation and loneliness, especially of mothers and old people.

Several Neighbourhood Groups in Cambridge are working to achieve this intra-community care. The Cherry Hinton N.G., run by Marion Martin, 9 Orchard Estate, provides practical help and entertainment in a growing network of mutually supportive people. The St. Martins Church Centre on Suez Road in Romsey Town runs a pensioners luncheon club and a Mother and Toddler Club. The Priory Residents Ass'n, although battling with a difficult building and so unable to provide much for old people, also runs a toddlers club and has special social events. Neighbourhood groups can also act as effective pressure groups to fight for the social and environmental needs of an area. The Eastbourne Terrace Residents Ass'n was set up to fight specific issues, such as the siting of a dangerous gas container next to houses. The

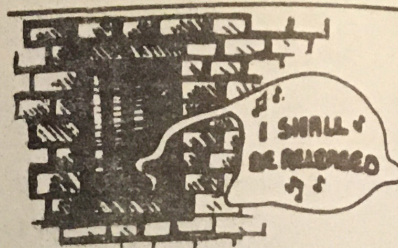
residents were amazed at the change in "official" attitude to their opposition once they had formed a group.

The Cambridge Community Council has set up a working party on neighbourhood groups. The aim is to help existing N.G.s in any way possible, to increase contact between these groups so that they exchange ideas and experience, and to help new groups to start. Possible ways to achieve these aims were discussed at a meeting between the working party and some Neighbourhood groups on Monday 25 June.

In essence, these groups must be informal, spontaneous and self-motivated. The working party recognises that it must not simply tie the groups up in a web of bureaucracy. But in the meeting it was decided that the working party might be able to help groups financially by pressing for the setting up of an intermediate funding body. This would be responsible for the detailed allocation of Council money to N.G.s for equipment and administration. It would hopefully be more in touch with the needs of such groups, as it would include group representatives. The working party will also produce a "recipe book" on existing groups and how they started.

Ultimately these groups must start spontaneously and run themselves independently. But advice from other groups and improved financial assistance could ease this process.

Another meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th October, 7.45, probably at the Wesley Church Hall, King St. It will be a good opportunity for people interested in increasing the grass-roots care and involvement in their neighbourhood to learn about how to, and to share their ideas and experience. Anyone is welcome.



"Any day now, any day now.
I shall be released"

The Band

For many people in prison abroad the words of this song would seem pitifully optimistic. They are in prison for life in places where life means just that; or they have long sentences for relatively trivial offences.

Earlier this year the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners abroad was formed. The initiative came from Release, the alternative welfare organisation based in London. The council will try to help people serving out long sentences in countries other than their own.

Already one celebrated case has been well publicised: that of Danny de Souza, a Londoner in Istanbul who has a long sentence for hash smuggling. Danny has suffered grievous maltreatment at the hands of the prison authorities. There are many others like him, whose governments refuse to take them home to serve their sentences (possible in many countries), or to grant them aid for food and medicine.

I am interested in forming a group in Cambridge in the autumn to help some of these people. NCWPA have sent me details of two cases: one of a Pakistani in prison with Danny, suffering from cancer and serving a life sentence for possessing one kilogram of cannabis, who urgently needs money; another of a young married Briton who is serving ten years in Spain for 27 kg, and who needs books and magazines in English to keep him busy and out of trouble.

I need the help of Grapevine readers if I am to help these people: old books and magazines (likely to pass Spanish censors), volunteers of sponsorship, small contributions for posting parcels of books, someone to translate letters into Urdu, and especially people with ideas for raising money and acting on these cases (the "pressure group" work is done from London, but writing to MP's could be useful).

Anyone who feels able to help now, or who can offer assistance in the autumn, please contact me. Remember - it could be one of your friends next...

Pat Ballin
Selwyn College

ADVERTISEMENT!

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8 Week Courses for "Top Managers" from the Third World. In the lovely surroundings of New Hall, Cambridge. "Top Managers" from Nigeria a speciality.

Course fee only	£2500
Bed, breakfast, lunch	£1128
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(This is only as much as the Nigerian government spends on education for one person in 1000 years - and you can always claim in on expenses)



PHOTOGRAPHY in the COMMUNITY

The St. Matthews Photo Workshop

The St. Matthew's Photo Workshop was formed in September 1978.

Following an item in our local newsletter 'Newsheet' a group of people interested in photography and living in or around the St. Matthew's General Improvement Area got together to discuss the possibility of starting a community photographic project. The initial group of six people has now settled down to four, only two of whom were in the original group. Of the four only two earn their living from full-time photographic work.

Before looking at this particular project it may be useful to briefly consider the general nature of community photography. The type of work currently being undertaken in various parts of the country usually falls into one of three categories:

- (i) Alternative photojournalism - where freelance photographers work with self-help organisations, pressure groups, charities, and the alternative press. The method of working differs little from that of commercial photojournalism except that the photographer usually sympathises with - and wishes to use his skills for the benefit of - particular social or political ideals.
- (ii) Community documentary - where a photographer works within a well defined locality in an attempt to record all facets of the community. Projects such as this are usually spread over a long period. The photographer ideally lives in the area and builds up a strong personal relationship with his/her subjects. Problems often encountered are the demands made by local people for prints and the varying opinions over what is or isn't an acceptable portrayal of people or events. Even if a photographer is very sympathetic to his/her subjects in principle, when it gets down to details a lot of differences can surface.
- (iii) Educational and 'DIY' photography - where the aim is to provide a photographic resource for the community in the form of equipment, darkrooms, and teaching or access to a photographers service. The emphasis is on getting people with little or no photographic knowledge to use the medium for themselves to illustrate particular needs or deficiencies in their area or to record events. By producing their own images people can break the monopoly that professional communicators have over the representation of their lives. This 'grass roots' approach demystifies the photographic process and, by making ordinary people the main subjects, audience, and users, helps to make photography in general more relevant to their lives. It may also tend to increase individual awareness of all photography and result in a more critical appreciation of images presented by the mass media.

The work of the St. Matthew's group falls mainly into the second category at present. Using what little spare time the workers have, a social, commercial, and architectural documentary record of area is slowly being prepared.

The social record side is concerned with local community activity such as schools, playgroups, fund-raising events, old peoples clubs, and events at the Bath House Neighbourhood Centre. The work sometimes borders on the photojournalistic, for example in the coverage of the local road-closure campaign featuring a street march by residents and a demonstration outside the Guildhall before the Council meeting. The continuing problem of heavy traffic using the streets for industrial access has also been covered and the pictures used in support of the campaign to move out the firms concerned.

The commercial documentary is concerned with recording the various local businesses. There are many small shops such as bakers, butchers, cycle and shoe repairers, grocers and general stores which have been in the area for many years. Of course in the past there were many more, sadly forced to close during the supermarket era, and no record exists of their presence or the tremendous contribution they made to the community. It is surprising thing how soon people forget everyday things. Ask someone what was at the bottom of their street a few years ago and they find it hard to remember. Although they experienced the loss - and possibly demolition - of a particular amenity the memory is soon lost. We think that a sense of immediate history is very important in any area and that a record of things such taken for granted could prove of immense value should they at any time be threatened.

We are also hoping to cover some of the more specialised firms in the area. Gwydir Street alone has two separate harpsichord makers, there is also an organ builder, printers, electronics firms, garages and many more. Recording these, and displaying the prints as publicly as possible, may help to forge links between the firms and the people that live around them. People like to know what's going on, especially on their doorstep. On a purely educational level, detailed coverage of particular trades could provide material for slide shows and talks in local schools. We would like to extend the social documentation to include interviews with the people photographed. Many of the older residents have lived in the area most or all of their lives and quite possibly rank among the City's oldest inhabitants. The area has, up until the last few years been predominantly working class. The disproportionate prices being asked for the old houses now mean that the entire social structure of the community is changing. The older residents have many a story to tell and we think these should be recorded. We would be interested to hear from anyone keen on working with us on this.

Architecturally we are trying to record the changing face of the general improvement area. With such large scale 'modernisation and improvement' the character of the streets is becoming irrevocably altered; such fine architectural detail is in danger of disappearing. As an example, the removal of old sash windows and their replacement with louvred, casement, or 'Georgian' types can totally alter the vertical emphasis of the narrow terraces. Piecemeal alteration can turn the subtle non-uniformity of the old streets into a visual disaster area.

There may be no point in preserving the pure Victorian facade out of some misplaced sense of nostalgia or 'quaintness' but at least by making people aware of the small, often attractive features that add to the character of the area they may think before embarking on extensive alteration.

In all aspects of project work we set ourselves, and try to work towards, high standards. This doesn't mean that any picture that fails to reach some particular degree of technical or aesthetic excellence is immediately discarded but every effort is put into producing good, clear, informative prints. Sometimes images can be produced that stand on their own as fine photographs. These can give immense personal satisfaction and hopefully please a lot of others as well but are not an end in themselves. Working on the project is always enjoyable and a continuing educational process photographically, socially and culturally.

The whole thing is of course worthless unless it is accessible to the community it serves and to the public at large. We have been granted a two week exhibition in the Central Library, Lion Yard, during September. This will be in the actual lending library section and should reach a large audience. We hope then to be able to bring it into the area, either to the Bath House or to Mill Road Library. All the work is also being made available to the Cambridgeshire Collection archive.

The Cambridgeshire Collection has very little in the way of visual records of St. Matthews and it was this that prompted a local appeal for old photographs. Several turned up, including some real finds such as a picture of the International Womens Co-operative Guild, in full national costume, at the Alex Wood Hall (date unknown) and a postcard of the old house that once stood on the Bath House site (1908). We hope that the Central Library exhibition will reach a lot of people who used to live in the area and who may have more pictures to add to the collection.

Perhaps the ultimate aim of the photo workshop is to provide just that - a facility at the Bath House for people to come and use photography in whatever form and for whatever purpose they choose. The main ethos behind the scheme has already been outlined. By encouraging self-help groups to use photography to further their cause and by holding informal practical and theoretical workshops we hope to educate more people into a general awareness of the power of the photograph. To do this we need to set up a reasonably well equipped darkroom and as funds are pretty well zero at present some concerted money raising is needed coupled with appeals for donations of equipment. If anyone is interested in the project - even if you don't live in the St. Matthew's area - please contact us through the Bath House, Gwydir Street.

It would be nice if enough people were involved to throw the project open to cover other parts of Cambridge. There are probably more miles of film exposed here than anywhere else outside London. It would be good to think that some of it was being put to better use than just another slide of King's College Chapel or the Banks.

Roy Hammons.

One Parent Families



Over 1½ million children in Britain live in one-parent families. There are 750,000 one-parent families (that's one in nine of all families) They are the largest growing group of families in poverty. About sixty per cent of the children in the care of local authorities are from one-parent families.

In 1969 the Government set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Morris Finer to look into the difficulties and needs of lone parents and their children.

The Committee's two-volume report, published in July 1974, highlighted the main problems facing one-parent families and made 230 recommendations which, if implemented, would transform their lives.

1. Low Incomes

Nearly half one-parent families are living on Supplementary Benefit.

Seven out of eight lone parents are women, unable to find jobs which pay a living wage or offer suitable hours.

On average, one-parent families have an income of half the average two-parent family income.

To tackle the problem of low incomes among one-parent families the Finer Committee recommended a special cash allowance, some improvements to the Supplementary Benefit Scheme, and improvements in the system of collection and payment of maintenance. None of the major proposals have been implemented.

2. Lack of Day Care for Children

The number of day nurseries has declined dramatically since the

war from 903 in 1949 to only 542 in 1978. Now there are only 26,000 places in maintained day nurseries in Britain.

Care after school hours, and during school holidays, which is important for children of lone parents, is almost non-existent. Day-care for children of all ages is essential if lone parents are to be able to work.

The Finer Committee recommended improved and extended day-care facilities, including a greater choice of provision.

3. Poor Housing

More than half the number of homeless families with children are one-parent families.

Many one-parent families share accommodation with relatives or friends.

Local authority housing allocation policies often discriminate against one-parent families in points schemes and residence qualifications.

Only 17% of lone mothers, compared with 53% of all families, are owner-occupiers.

The Finer Committee said "A good and secure home is essential to successful family life. There is an important sense in which this holds particularly true for one-parent families, in that the presence or absence of adequate housing conditions may well tip the balance on whether such families surmount or succumb to the financial and social handicaps from which they are apt to suffer". Housing is the largest single problem of one-parent families after income. The Finer Committee's recommendations included changes in the law relating to the matrimonial home and an end to discrimination in local authority housing policies. One-parent families tend to live in the worst housing, especially in privately rented accommodation.



Taken from THE FINER JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE - Information Leaflet

FJAC
255 Kentish Town Road
LONDON NW5 2LX

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE WAY IN WHICH SINGLE PARENTS ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN OUR SO-CALLED "WELFARE STATE".....

One Parent Families (cont'd)

Ms A. is a single parent living in a 10' x 10' bedsit with her 9 month old son. The theme running through my talks with Ms A. is one of constant battle with authorities and the feeling that one is alone with the problem of bringing up a child on social security, and alone. It is true that there is no government body to help such people and considering that 1 family in 9 is a one parent family, this is a very unbalanced state of affairs.

The Social Worker in the hospital offered advice on adoption and to help to arrange adoptive parents. Possibly a positive step, but had she decided on this course of action, it would not have been supported by removing the mother to a ward where there were no babies; she would still have to feed and look after the child during her hospital stay, by which time, a strong bond would have been formed.

Before the baby was born was a time for finding out her rights and what grants were available. She worked for 8 months and then received 6 weeks maternity grant from her job. On top of this, she earned £22 a week for six weeks - a wage related benefit - and then had to wait for 6 weeks without any money, before being eligible for SS!!! She also received a lump sum of £25 on the birth of the baby - most of which was spent on nappies alone!

Ms A. stated catagorically that the biggest problem for single parents is a financial one. She certainly had no support from the authorities and had to find out her entitlements herself - not easy at a time of great emotional stress.

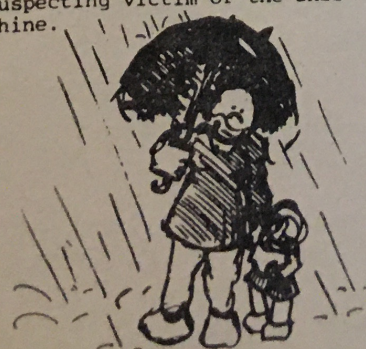
At present, Ms A. is living in a bedsit - hardly suitable accommodation for a growing child. She is on the council housing list, but received no priority. She asked to be housed in the Romsey area where most of her friends live, but the only place she would be offered in any reasonable space of time would be on the Arbury estate, where she would know no-body and where she would be cut off from the town-centre nurseries, etc as she cannot afford such "luxuries" as bus-fares. It is apparently quite common for single parent families to be put into sub-standard housing on large estates. As Ms M pointed out - at present she can drop in on friends who live near and can scrounge the odd meal to keep her and her child from starving!!!!

Her doctor and health visitor were also not very helpful - the health visitor, possibly in good faith, but totally out of touch with the reality of the situation, was giving her advice on diet, nutrition and hair-dos!! - with about £4 a week for food for herself and the baby, this was totally irrelevant. She was trying to breast-feed, living mainly on Guinness and potato soup! When the maternity grant ceased, nobody from the DHSS came to visit her. She was not eligible for unemployment benefit and so received her pittance on SS. To make matters worse, the child benefit she receives is taken off her SS cheque. If she was married or working, the child benefit would not be taken off whereas on SS, the allowance is considered as INCOME and therefore deducted. The only other allowance is 1 free pinta a day plus free visits to the baby clinic for check ups etc. She has free prescriptions and free dental treatment and glasses.

During the winter was the worst time for her and she feared the baby might die of cold or malnutrition. She even considered having the baby put into care until she could be re-housed, but was advised against this by a social worker, as, if she no longer had the child to look after, there would be no need for her to be rehoused. As soon as the child was taken into care, she was warned, she would no longer have any rights over the child and it could take months of emotional anguish to regain possession of him. This in fact, is NOT the legal position but in practice, this is what has been known to happen.

One other thing Ms A. pointed out was that advice is needed before going to claim at the DHSS. When she went, she was bombarded with humiliating questions on the father's identity, obviously so that the DHSS would have to pay her less if the father could be found and made to pay maintenance. She was asked questions on how and where they met, what he looks like, how long their relationship lasted, even the colour of his eyes and his nationality and accent! All these fired at one, in a highly emotional state at a very vulnerable time - NOT a very pleasant experience.

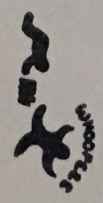
Legally, one is not obliged to answer these questions but this fact is not well publicised and not likely to be known by the unsuspecting victim of the DHSS machine.



* CAMBRIDGE

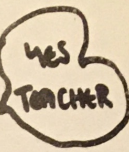
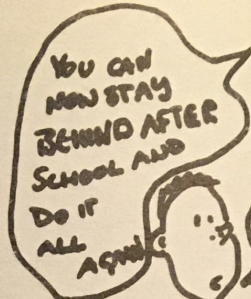
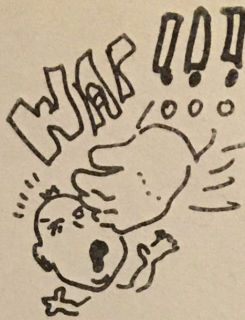
CAMBRIDGE GUNGERBREAD (one parent family association)
- WE DESPERATELY NEED TO KNOW OF ANYONE WHO CAN OCCASIONALLY OFFER ACCOMMODATION FOR ONE PARENT FAMILIES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS..
... MANY PEOPLE OFFER BEDSITS FOR SINGLE PEOPLE
BUT DOES NO-ONE CARE ABOUT PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN IN THIS CITY?
Ringer GUNGERBREAD OFFICE, BATH HOUSE, GUYDRE ST, CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE 69986. TUESDAY + THURSDAY 1-3 PM.

GUNGERBREAD HOLIDAY DAY CARE.
23RD JULY - 3RD AUGUST AT THE BATH HOUSE, GUYDRE ST.
6TH AUGUST - 17TH AUGUST ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, CORDHAMS LANE.
8.30 - 6.00 PM. PACKED LUNCH.
IDEAL FOR HELPERS, DONATIONS, EQUIPMENT ETC
RINGER OR CRL GUNGERBREAD OFFICE.



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PICK THAT UP!



FREE SCHOOL

Since February, five young children aged 5 to 8 have been learning in a very different way to the one in which most of us were brought up. From this non-competitive and relaxed atmosphere we watch strong happy and confident human beings emerging.

But, but, but..... wont they just RUN WILD??

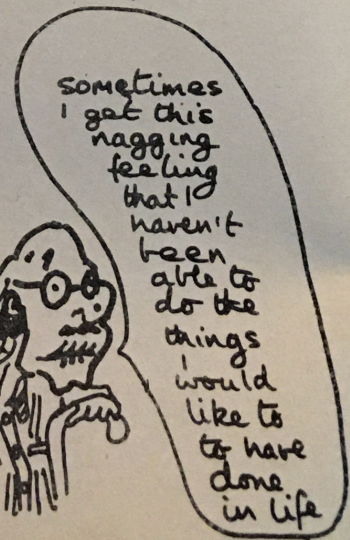
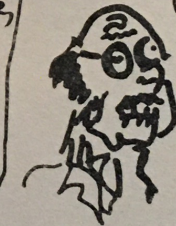
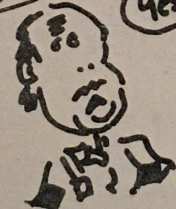
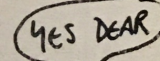
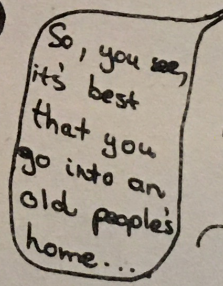
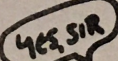
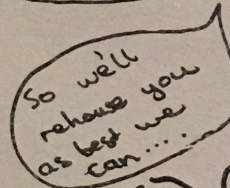
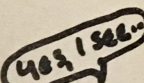
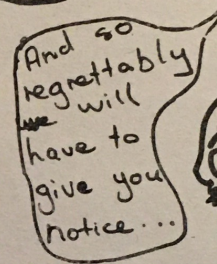
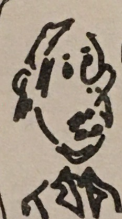
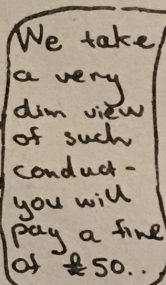
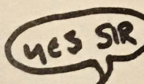
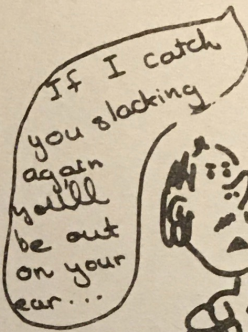
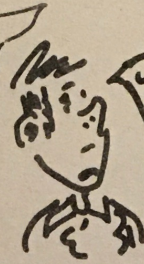
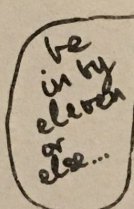
NO! This is an adult fear based on our own unhappy experiences in school. There is a lot of noise and fun and games. Just as there should be. There are also quiet times with books and numbers. And learning projects that go on for days or weeks. Flint, seeds, flowers, pin-hole cameras, clay, fossils, flags and pond-life have been avidly explored.

But it is not what is learn but HOW it is learnt that matters most. They learn because they want to, not because they're scared of us. We don't force them when the job of discovery has gone. Our school is a happy place. If you agree that we can decrease the craziness of adults by increasing the happiness of schools, then join in the free school. We need workers, we need money and we'd love more young people.

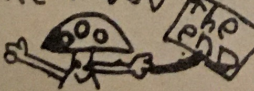
CONTACT: Susan Rothenberg or Mik Moore
65 Victoria Road
Phone 52813

IS YOUR CHILD HAPPY AT SCHOOL?

FREE SCHOOL



The kings mushroom BY K1495
Once upon a time there was a little red and white mushroom growing in the wood. One fine day a king was walking. 'That's a fine mushroom' he said. 'I'll take him home' he said. The king lived in the clouds, in a big castle with lots of towers. He planted him in the garden. It was a magic garden in one second the mushroom grew very high. 'I like this place better than the wood' he said and he stayed there.



Grapevine thanks K1 for the story and hopes for more contributions for a fuller children's page in the next issue.....

... AND REMEMBER KIDS, AGGIE RULES & children's page in the next issue.....

DIRECTORY OF GROUPS

This page is hoped to be a pretty comprehensive guide to Radical/Community/Alternative groups in Cambridge

If there are any additions or corrections to be made, please let us know at 41A Fitzroy Street, so they can be included in the next issue.

Pressure Groups

Anti-Apartheid
Hilary Perraton
247 Hills Road

Amnesty International
c/o Mr R Fairbairne
298 Coldhams Lane
43329

University Group
c/o Liz Wallis
Newnham

Campaign for Homosexual
Equality (CHE)
Womens Group Christin Donald
- Tel 56344
Mena Group
Graham Paine 311971
Meet every Thursday at 8pm
Fortnightly from June 28th
at 4 Glisson Road - on other
Thursdays the place varies

Chile Committee for Human Rights
Andy Brown 53 City Road
Tel. 311750
Ethel Shepherd,
96 Blinco Grove 46751

Empty Property Action Group
Sue Covender or Nigel Ecclesfield
c/o CCAT, Students Union
Collier Road

Friends of the Earth
Eric Blenkinsop
The Bath House
Gwydir Street 312800
Meeting every Wednesday 8pm

Gay Cambridge-University Based
group. Contact Toby Keynes,
Gonville & Caius with CHE -
Anchor Pub, Silver Street
Mondays 8pm

Kite Co-ordinating Council (KCC)
c/o Liza Jordine
53 Main's Causeway
Tel. 63989

Torness Alliance
Nickie Stubbs
The Bath House
Gwydir Street
Tel. 312800

Women

Cambridge Women's Centre
48A Eden Street

General Meeting 1st Tuesday
of the month, 8.30pm
Also Open every Saturday -
2 - 5 pm

Cambridge Women's Liberation
Newsletter - to subscribe, write
to the Newsletter Group at the
women's centre. To help produce
it, there is a meeting at 8.30
on the first Mondays after the
General Meeting.

Pregnancy Testing Sessions
Saturdays 10 - 11.30am at
the women's centre. Tests
are free and confidential.
Bring an early morning urine
sample

Women and Education
For women interested in
defining and fighting sexism
in schools and education
generally. Contact Christine
- 56344

Compulsive Eating Group
Contact Prudence 50757

Women Artists Group
Contact Julia Bell - 62787

Cambridge Women's Aid
Audrey 60243
or Dore 43706

National Abortion Campaign
Meets weekly to campaign for
abortion on demand
Karen 52003 or Kate 62724

Politics

All Cambridge Campaign
Against Racism and Fascism
(ACCARAF)
and Rock Against Racism
(RAR)
c/o Dave Arnott
Darwin College
Silver Street

Anarchist Group
Raf Salkis
Queens College 65511 ex 288
Bookstall every Thurs lunch-
time outside canteen at the
Tech, Collier Road

Communist Party
c/o Dave Morton
47A Pantons Street
Tel. 61549

Jewish Socialists Group
Barry Smerin
65 Blinco Grove
46100

Labour Party
c/o Mike Jones
Alex Wood Hall
Norfolk St 55511

Liberal Party
4 Glisson Road
Tel 69312

Progressive Co-operative
Movement
Len Freeman
23 Hope Street
311455

Socialist Workers Party
Meets every Monday at 8pm
in the Duke of Agyle

Trades Council
Ron Rolph
5 Forest Road
Cherry Hinton
44438

Trades Union Congress
(TUC)
East Anglian Regional Council
119 Newmarket Road
676-1

Help & Advice

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel Peter
Saffron Walden 23214

Citizens Advice Bureau
Mr Michael Savage
31 Regent Terrace

Claimants Union
Helpful and sympathetic
advice for claimants by
claimants 2 - 5 pm at the
Bath House Gwydir Street
Tel. 312800 or contact
Ian at 68329

Community Education
June O'Brien
Shire Hall
58911 ext 412

Community Relations Council
The Bath House
Gwydir Street
60333

Cyrenians Ltd
Willie Sugg
4 Short Street
67797

Friend
Befriends Lonely Homosexuals
John - 95-41971

Gingerbread
A national organisation
of single parent families
Frankie Johnson
2 Petersfield tel. 52927
or HLR Wood
41 New Road
Hawlingfield 870981

Squatters Group
Isley Currie
41A Fitzroy St
Housing Advice Centre
The Guildhall
Wheeler Street
Tel. 58977 ex 369 or 370

Law Surgery
for free legal advice
Mrs RA Jones
9 Arber Close
Bottisham 811783

Tuesdays 7-9pm
9 Norfolk Street, St Mat-
thews Centre

Wednesdays
12.30 - 2pm Citizens Advice
Bureau, 31 Regents Ter
7 - 9 pm Arbory Community
Centre, Campkin Road

Thursdays
6 - 7 pm East Barnwell
Community Centre,
Newmarket Road
7 - 9 pm The Bath House
Gwydir Street

Fridays
6 - 7 pm Citizens Advice
Bureau

Saturdays
10 - 1 pm
Citizens Advice Bureau

Samaritans
1 Parker Street
56420
Emergency No. 64455

Save the Children's Fund
Cambridge Project
David Green - Overstream Hse
Victoria Avenue 50967

Student Community Action
Romilly Gregory
3 Round Church St
50365

Youth Action
Francie Woodward
1 Benet Place
Lensfield Road
56549

Others

British Society for Social
Responsibility in Science -

Computer Group
c/o Nick Gill
5 Halifax Road

Politics of Food Group
Jonathan Jones
153 Huntingdon Road
Tel 64472

Buddhist Society
Jane Giddings
17 Belvoir Road
Tel. 60325

The Free School
Sue Rohlenberg
65 Victoria Road
Tel 52813

Jewish Residents Assn
Sharon Blaukopf,
56 Perne Avenue

Society for Promoting
Pagan Knowledge
'Pagan Meet'
Mitre Pub
Bridge Street 8pm onwards
last Wednesday of the month
c/o PO Box 146 Finchingfield
Braintree, Essex

Park Street Residents Assn
Mrs Knight
28 Park Parade 53804

St Matthews Neighbourhood Assn
Roy Hamman
71 Gwydir Street
Tel 66900

Working Weekends on Organic Farms
WWDOF
Helen Seal
22 Sleaford Street
Tel 50857

